

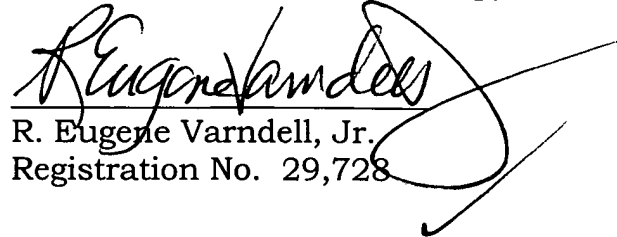
REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 22 were amended to define that the xenon gas improves an energy value during the pulsed laser output. Claims 9-24 are in the application for consideration by the examiner.

For the reasons set forth in the preliminary amendment filed May 2, 2002, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Wakabayashi and/or Stein cannot contemplate or suggest the invention as set forth in Claims 9-24 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance of claims 9-24 are respectfully requested. While it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below-listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit
Account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
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